Leicester, Maſstts, Sept 18. 1853.

Dear Mr. Estlin;—

How long it is since I wrote those words! I deeply feel that I have not been doing right, in so long delaying a letter to you, or to Mary. Her letter — I cannot say how much I thank her for it, how much I was interested in it — was recd. July 27th. I ought to have written *soon*, — I did mean to write *at once*. I can hardly explain, or account for, the influence that has kept me back. — I have indeed had a pretty busy summer, but not so busy but that I could have found time to write to you. But I knew not *how to write*. I could not rise (I believe) to that lofty level of calm & perfect resignation, at which I felt that you and your daughter ~~were~~; and, surely, I *ought not* to write to you in any other spirit; — so I have felt. — Oh! how much I have *thought* of you both — how much I have wondered at your cheerful courage, and your lofty faith. — Could I poſseſs it, myself, in a like affliction? I have asked. I know not; I hope I should never *repine*. But it seems to me I could be easier reconciled in my *own* case, than in that of another, to whom I had long been looking, as in your case, to guide ~~our~~ a "forlorn hope" through dangerous paſses & amidst wily foes, in safety. I feel, and shall so long feel, *lost*, in regard to our cause in England, now that I know you cannot work, as you have been working for it, — that I know not where *to take my position*, what attitude to aſsume, with regard to you. — But I must write no more in this strain. If I cannot respond, as I would, to all you & your daughter feel — if I cannot offer, — what you do not need — consolation, let me not say a word to sadden you. — Since Mary's kind letter, I have heard nothing particularly from or of you; — save, through Mrs. Webb, (who wrote me, during her husband's illness) that you & your daughter had gone to a friend's house, in the neighbourhood of Bristol, to try the effect of a change of scene, &c. I hope your other correspondents have been more faithful than I; for when you could read, & had time to enjoy, letters, you should have had an ~~sufficient~~ ample supply.

I took Mary's letter with me to Northampton, (the middle of August), on my way to attend an Anti Slavery Convention in the Western part of this State, with a view to read some portions of it to Wendell Phillips. I had often shown him your letters to me. I knew he sympathizes most deeply with you, in your illness, as he had written me, when he first heard of it, and therefore I wished him to know just how you, & your daughter, were feeling. I went out to the Water Cure Institution (3 miles from N.), where he & his wife have been staying more than a year, and spent 2 hours with him most pleasantly. I read him parts of the letter. — He asked me if I would not leave it with him, "for Anne to see" (his wife) — he expressed the wish that I would so earnestly, that I at last consented. Mrs. P. has experienced no benefit from her long trial of the Water; she has been out of the house (where she lives there) but once, I was told during the whole long year. When P. returned me the letter he said his wife had been deeply moved by it. She had, he said, shed tears over it freely. I have shown it to no one else, except to my wife and Ada; — besides reading some portions to Mr. Wallcut; — have had no opportunity with Mr. Garrison. —

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I am very glad to see that W. Armistead purposes to republish (as I hear) among his Tracts, your Brief Notice of American Slavery. Long ago you asked me to furnish you some additional facts, &c. for it. — The work of doing it got delayed so long, that it was *never* taken up. I presume you have got much that you wished, from other quarters.

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Frederick Douglass is developing himself more and more. He is an artful & adroit fellow — and does not care at all about misrepresenting others, & violating the well-known truth, when it will serve him so to do. I remember you wrote to me, before you saw him, that you did not like ~~the~~ his expression, in the engraved likenesses you had seen; — you thought there was a sinister cast in it. His behaviour for a year or two back has shown the sinister, crooked nature of his soul. — He is selfish, malignant, false. But he has exposed himself very fully now.

We are having a pretty busy summer — not doing so much in New England as usual, having at present but 4 or 5 lecturers here; — but doing more (i.e. the American A.S. Socy) than ever before in the Western States, Ohio, Michigan, & Indiana, Westn. Pennsylvania, &c. We have some *ten* of our ablest lecturers out there, and they cannot fail to produce an effect. Mr. C. F. Hovey of Boston gave One thousand dollars to carry that work forward. I have been called to act as a sort of General Agent for this movement — at least, for setting it on foot, &c. Now they will direct their own movements, for the most part.

I hope soon to hear from you both again. I know that the accounts will be good, whatever they are. With my best regards and sympathies, my thanks & my blessings upon you both, I am, Most truly Yours, Saml May Jr

From Rev. S. May

Sep. 2d.

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